# ITT: And Now Chile

Jack Anderson, in his column yesterday, quoted from purported ITT documents which state that ITT dealt with the Central Intelligence Agency over Chile and that the company tried (and failed) in 1970 to generate enough economic chaos there to trigger a military coup that would bring down the elected Marxist president, Salvador Allende. In his column today, Mr. Anderson goes on to show, from the purported ITT documents, that ITT pressed its anti-Allende campaign at the White House and State Department and with the Attorney General as well. On Sept. 15, 1970, one document says, the American ambassador in Santiago "finally received a message from the State Department giving him the green light to move in the name of President Nixon. The message gave him maximum authority to do all possible—short of a Dominican Republic-type action—to keep Allende from taking power." But, an ITT report of Oct. 16 said, "it is a fact that word was passed to Viaux [General Roberto Viaux, identified as ITT's choice of coup maker] from Washington to hold back last week . . ."

These allegations are astonishing. It is perhaps one matter that ITT — whose Chilean telephone property, valued by it some $108 million, was nationalized last September—might seek to intervene in a foreign election, dealing with a CIA activist in Washington and seeking out in Santiago a general (Viaux) who is now in jail facing court-martial on charges of participating in the 1970 slaying of the army chief of staff. If true, this is outrageous enough. In any event, publication of the charge is likely to make it politically impossible for any Chilean government to consider ITT's compensation claim for a long time to come. In view of reports that Chile was about to make an important compromise on that claim, in order to break the political logjam in its foreign loan and debt renegotiation situations, this is a particularly inopportune time for the story to break.

It is quite another matter, however, and a far graver one, that President Nixon stands charged, in what is purported to be an authentic ITT document, of personally approving an attempt "to do all possible—short of a Dominican Republic-type action—to keep Allende from taking power." This is a charge so serious that it is hard to see how anything short of a major congressional investigation can dispose of it. Hardly less pressing is the question of why, if a "green light" had been given on Sept. 15, it had turned red by Oct. 16. Could there have been a threat of exposure of a CIA hand, possibly in the Senate? We do not know. So much of an open secret is the CIA's support of the victorious Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei in Chile's 1964 elections, however, that suggestions of a CIA role in 1970 cannot be easily dismissed.

That the latest Anderson columns will let President Allende play the aggrieved nationalist, and thereby gain him months' reprieve from his own deep political troubles, goes without saying. The resultant surge of anti-American propaganda can be all to well predicted. What must concern Americans more, however, is the revealed troubles of our own. ITT is now accused of manipulating not only key aspects of domestic policy but of foreign policy as well. What kind of system is it that permits a powerful corporation to wander through the corridors of official power as though they were its own? How can it be—if it is so—that in 1970 an American President could consider the possibility of acting to prevent the democratically elected president of a supposedly friendly country from taking office? The Dismisal Swamp we have been talking of in connection with the affairs of ITT for some days is becoming ever more dismal.